



U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
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News Release

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Date: August 29, 2016

Early Fire Burns 65 Acres near the Cherry Lake Road Area of Groveland, CA

SONORA, California, August 22, 2016 – The Early Fire has burned 65 acres near Early Intake on the Cherry Lake Road area near the Preston Falls Trailhead in an old Rim Fire burn scar area. Crews are working through the night to gain containment. The fire is currently 10% contained and forward progression of the fire has stopped.

The Early Fire started around 2:00pm this afternoon and is burning through the old fire scar of the Rim Fire in grass and brushy vegetation. The fire had a slow to moderate rate of spread and had reached the top of a small unnamed ridge north of the Cherry Drainage late this afternoon.

This afternoon there were five air tankers, two helicopters and over 30 people working the fire. A crew from the Tuolumne Band of the Me-Wuk Indians is working alongside Stanislaus National Forest fire crew to help contain the fire. There are five engines on scene and five more ordered for tomorrow. There are four more crews on their way to assist with fire suppression including 3 hotshot crews: Kings River Hotshots from the Sierra National Forest, Big Bear Hotshots from the San Bernardino National Forest, Springville Hotshots from Sequoia National Forest, and Bear Divide from the Angeles National Forest. All aircraft is on hold at the Columbia Airbase.

The Stanislaus National Forest is currently working in cooperation with Cal Fire, the Sierra NF, the Angeles NF, the Sequoia NF, the San Bernardino NF, and the Tuolumne Band of the Me-Wuk Indians on this incident.

For more information about this fire contact Clare Long at 209-288-6298. We will post daily updates on our website: www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus as well as on our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StanislausNF/> and twitter: @Stanislaus_NF

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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